



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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SLM and police clash in Omdurman

- Eight members of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM- Minawi) and two police officers were killed in a clash yesterday in Omdurman. The fighting broke out when police surrounded a house occupied by SLM members in Omdurman and demanded that certain members be handed over to authorities. SLM spokesman Al-Tayyib Khamis considered the incident a "violation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA). We consider this a declaration of war. We are ready to reply with the same methods they (the police) have used." Interior Minister Al-Zubeir Bashir Taha said the police intervened following complaints from neighbors that they were victims of physical abuse and "misconduct" by SLM elements. He said police went to the house to apprehend the SLM elements and take them away for interrogation. When SLM members refused to hand over the suspects, shots were fired from within the house and that led to a gun battle, Taha said. He added that this incident will not affect the implementation of the Abuja Agreement. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Sahafa, et al*)

Darfur

- Sudan's Foreign Minister, Lam Akol, met yesterday in Khartoum with the visiting UN Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, and AU Envoy for Darfur, Salim Ahmed Salim, to discuss progress made in reaching an agreement with DPA non-signatories. The two envoys also discussed ways to activate political dialogue between all parties involved in the Darfur issue. Eliasson stated that he was optimistic that warring parties in Darfur could reach a truce, saying previously reticent rebel groups have agreed to negotiate. Akol informed the envoys that the government is determined to fulfill its commitment concerning the UN support packages to the AU troops in Darfur, as agreed in Addis Ababa. (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Ayaam, Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

- UN Humanitarian Chief John Holmes was barred from entering an Internally Displaced Persons camp in North Darfur yesterday. Holmes told Reuters that a military guard at the Kassab Camp in Kutum, had stopped him from entering and that this decision was supported by the guard's commander: "I am frustrated and angry. I find this extraordinary but it illustrates the difficulties we are facing," Holmes said. (*Reuters, Al-Ayaam*)

Bashir, Kiir meeting

- At a meeting yesterday, President Omer Al-Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir ordered the creation of a joint National Congress Party/Sudanese People's Liberation Movement committee to discuss the situation in Darfur and the International Criminal Court accusations against two Sudanese. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Commentary in *Akhir Lahza* Arabic daily

- In its editorial today, Arabic daily *Akhir Lahza* criticized the government for allowing armed groups in Khartoum to bear arms and live among civilians. According to the editorial, this poses a "direct threat to the stability of the national capital." The editorial also criticized the political discourse of the SLM and demanded that the movement apologize for threatening to "wage war in Khartoum."

Quote of the Day:

"Instead of having the war in Darfur, we will transfer the war to Khartoum." - SLM spokesman Al-Tayyib Khamis.

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. Material reported here does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.